



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: August 25, 2025

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Holly Ellis, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Huber Technology Inc., Q-Press - Sole Source Procurement Declaration

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Solids Handling Building currently contains two aging belt presses used for dewatering biosolids. These units are at the end of their useful life, show significant rusting, and have been identified by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as a permit violation. To maintain regulatory compliance and ensure reliable operations, replacing the belt presses with two screw presses was identified and budgeted as a bridge improvement project in advance of the full WWTP replacement. The goal is to replace these presses now to protect operations, with the added benefit that they can also be used in the new facility once it is constructed.

After evaluating alternatives and conducting a pilot test, Stantec recommends sole source pre-procurement of two Huber Technology Inc. Q-Press screw presses (models 440.2 or 620.2). Idaho Code §67-2808 authorizes sole source procurement when there is only one vendor reasonably available or when competitive solicitation is impractical.

The Solids Handling Building imposes dimensional and weight constraints that limit available equipment options. The existing roof hatches and structural capacity can accommodate the Huber units, while many competing products are too large or too heavy to install without costly structural modifications or construction of a new building. In addition, the City requested pilot testing from multiple manufacturers, but only Huber Technology conducted a pilot test at the Sandpoint WWTP. Their Q-Press successfully demonstrated reliable performance in dewatering the plant's sludge, while no other manufacturer has provided proof of equivalent effectiveness. The lighter weight of the Huber units further reduces the risk of requiring expensive structural reinforcement of the existing building.

Schedule reliability is also a critical concern. The belt presses are at high risk of failure, and waiting for a competitive procurement would extend the timeline and potentially leave the City without a functioning dewatering system. Pre-procurement of the Huber presses will allow design and submittal processes to move forward immediately, preventing costly delays and ensuring the WWTP can continue to operate without interruption. The use of known equipment also allows the design team to finalize electrical, HVAC, and piping requirements accurately, reducing redesign costs and change orders during construction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Consider declaring Huber Technology, Inc. a sole source vendor for purposes of procuring two Q-Press screw presses (models 440.2 or 620.2), including associated parts, for the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant in accordance with Idaho Code §67-2808. Following the required 14-day legal advertisement in the

Bonner County Daily Bee, and provided no challenges are received, authorize the Mayor to approve a Purchase Order to Huber Technology, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00.

This procurement approach ensures compatibility with the existing Solids Handling Building, provides proven and reliable performance, minimizes risk of downtime, and accelerates replacement of the failing belt presses.

ACTION:

Move to approve a motion to declare Huber Technology, Inc. a sole source vendor pursuant to Idaho Code §67-2808, and authorize staff to proceed with pre-procurement of two Huber Q-Press screw presses (models 440.2 or 620.2). Following the required 14-day legal advertisement in the Bonner County Daily Bee, and provided no challenges are received, authorize the Mayor to approve a Purchase Order to Huber Technology, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00..

WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? YES HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED? YES

Cost of advertising for sole source vendor.

ATTACHMENTS:

Pre-Procurement Justification by Stantec

Huber Q-Press Pilot Report

Compliance Determination Letter